AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) A device for use in association with a multimedia system for capturing and reproducing at least audio signals, the device being

A) associated with plurality of microphones;

B) configured to perform adaptive acoustic stereo or mono echo-canceling operations on audio signals captured by at least some of the associated microphones to produce at least one stereo or mono echo-canceling audio signal;

C) configured to perform synthetic aperture microphone processing on the audio signals captured by at least some of the associated microphones for producing at least one synthetic aperture microphone audio signal; and

D) configured to select between the synthetic aperture microphone processing and the adaptive acoustic stereo or mono echo-canceling operations ~~and the synthetic aperture microphone processing~~.

3. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 2, wherein the synthetic aperture microphone processing capabilities and the adaptive acoustic stereo and mono echo-canceling operations ~~and synthetic aperture microphone processing capabilities~~ are combined in a single packaging.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 2, wherein the synthetic aperture microphone processing adjusts a position of a spatial region corresponding to the area of maximum sensitivity of the synthetic aperture microphone function.

6. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 2, wherein the synthetic aperture microphone processing comprises performing at least one of a delay or frequency dispersion operation on at least some of the audio ~~signal~~ signals.

7. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 2, comprising [[A/V]]audio-video elements configured to receive, transmit, encode, and decode at least one of the audio signals and video signals.

8-56. (Canceled)

57. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 2, the device comprising:

a communications port configured to couple the device to a workstation.

58-62. (Canceled)

63. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 2, wherein the synthetic aperture microphone audio signals and the stereo or mono echo-canceling audio signals ~~and the synthetic aperture microphone audio signals~~ are produced from at least some of the same audio signals.

64-66. (Canceled)

67. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 2, wherein the synthetic aperture microphone processing and the acoustic stereo and mono echo-canceling operations ~~and the synthetic aperture microphone processing~~ are performed in a single processor.

68. (Currently Amended) A method of capturing and reproducing at least audio signals, the method comprising:

receiving audio signals from a plurality of microphones;

performing adaptive acoustic stereo or mono echo-canceling operations on the audio signals received from at least some of the microphones to produce at least one stereo or mono echo-canceling audio signal;

performing synthetic aperture microphone processing on the audio signals received from at least some of the microphones to produce at least one synthetic aperture microphone audio signal; and

selecting between the synthetic aperture microphone processing and the adaptive acoustic stereo or mono echo-canceling operations ~~and the synthetic aperture microphone processing~~.

69. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 68, wherein the synthetic aperture microphone processing and the acoustic stereo and mono echo-canceling operations ~~and the synthetic aperture microphone processing~~ are performed in a single processor.

70. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 68, wherein the synthetic aperture microphone audio signals and the stereo or mono echo-canceling audio signals ~~and the synthetic aperture microphone audio signals~~ are produced from at least some of the same audio signals.

71. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 68, wherein the synthetic aperture microphone processing adjusts a position of a spatial region corresponding to the area of maximum sensitivity of the synthetic aperture microphone function.

72. (Currently Amended) A multimedia collaboration system, the system comprising:

a plurality of audio signals received from a plurality of microphones;

a stereo or mono echo-canceled audio signal produced by performing adaptive acoustic stereo or mono echo-canceling operations on the audio signals received from at least some of the plurality of microphones; and

at least one synthetic aperture microphone audio signal produced by performing synthetic aperture microphone processing on the audio signals received from at least some of the plurality of microphones; and

wherein the system selects between the synthetic aperture microphone processing and the adaptive acoustic stereo or mono echo-canceling operations ~~and the synthetic aperture microphone processing~~.

73. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 72, wherein the synthetic aperture microphone processing and the adaptive acoustic stereo and mono echo-canceling operations ~~and synthetic aperture microphone processing~~ are combined in a single packaging.

74. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 72, wherein the synthetic aperture microphone processing and the adaptive acoustic stereo and mono echo-canceling operations ~~and synthetic aperture microphone processing~~ are performed in a single processor.

75. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 72, wherein the synthetic aperture microphone processing and the adaptive acoustic stereo and mono echo-canceling operations ~~and synthetic aperture microphone processing~~ are produced from at least some of the same audio signals.

76. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 72, wherein the synthetic aperture microphone processing adjusts a position of a spatial region corresponding to the area of maximum sensitivity of the synthetic aperture microphone function.

77. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 72, wherein the synthetic aperture microphone processing includes performing at least one of a delay or frequency dispersion operation on at least some of the audio ~~signal~~ signals.

78. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 72, including [[A/V]]audio-video elements configured to receive, transmit, encode, and decode at least one of the audio signals and video signals.

79. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 72, wherein the system is coupled to a workstation.